

OCTOBER 2007

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR BLOCK PARTIES

THE 24TH ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (NNO) EXPERIENCED ONE OF THE largest turnouts ever as more than 360 neighborhoods hosted block parties on August 7.

“We had a fantastic turnout,” said Officer Niki Pierson. “Every City fire rig and every squad car was out; it was awesome.”

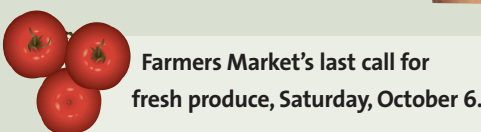
Lots of special visitors, including Mayor Winstead, members of the City Council and Officer McGruff attended the block parties. There were also plenty of games, raffles and giveaways. The Bloomington Police Department was presented with a \$7,000 grant from the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association.

A crime, drug and violence prevention program, NNO is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs.
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.
- Send the message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

For more information, call Niki Pierson at 952-563-8808.

National Night Out is an evening of family fun that everyone can enjoy!



Farmers Market's last call for fresh produce, Saturday, October 6.

BLOOMINGTON TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS HISTORICAL PHOTOS AND STORIES REQUESTED

BLOOMINGTON WILL CELEBRATE ITS 150TH anniversary in 2008. Do you have historical photos or stories you'd like to share? If so, submit them to City of Bloomington Communications, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431, by calling Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or visiting the Special Projects section on the home page of the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us. Please do not mail your photos. Contact us to make arrangements for submission.

BLOOMINGTON VETERANS HONORED



THE CREEKSIDE VETERANS WALL WILL BE on display at Creekside Community Center from mid-October through November. The wall of more than 100 photos of Bloomington veterans pays tribute to their valiant service to our country. If you would like to submit a photo of yourself or a loved one pictured in uniform, bring the photo to the main office at Creekside. Photos submitted last year will be included in the 2008 display. For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

OLD TOWN HALL EXTERIOR RENOVATION COMPLETE RENOVATION RETAINS INTEGRITY OF ORIGINAL DESIGN

THE EXTERIOR OF OLD TOWN HALL, AT PENN AVENUE AND OLD Shakopee Road, has been restored to its original 1892 appearance.

The landmark is in a historic part of the city and one of the last old town halls in the metropolitan area, according to Parks and Recreation Supervisor Mark Morrison.

Frerichs Construction Company began the stabilization and rehabilitation of the 115-year-old building in March. The goal of the restoration effort was to preserve Bloomington's past and present identity and to ensure that standards for historical preservation were maintained. Many features of the building's exterior were recreated to mirror the original.

“Architectural details were replicated from old photographs of the building,” said Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Jim Eiler. “We recreated the cupola, as the original one was removed many years ago, and replaced the old window shutters with replicas of the original arched frames with gingerbread trim.”

The \$740,000 exterior restoration project also included replacing asphalt shingles with cedar shakes, replacing glass doors with wooden doors and removing the stucco to install wood siding. In addition, a fire protection system was installed to help preserve the building for years to come.

How much have design and construction practices changed since the original was built? Not much, according to Eiler.

“Skilled craftsmen still do most of the work by hand. Now they use a nail gun instead of a hammer, but the work is still very labor intensive.”

The City is landscaping and constructing a new parking lot and accessible entrance.

The Old Town Hall will continue housing the Bloomington Historical Society. The Society is raising \$140,000 toward the exterior renovation of Old Town Hall. To purchase an engraved brick or make a donation, call 952-881-4327.

For more information, call Mark Morrison at 952-563-8693.



Photo credit: Vonda Kelly



The original cupola was recreated from details captured in historical photographs.



Replicas of the original shutters were installed, complete with arched frames and gingerbread trim.

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